CLAIMS

1. An expression cassette comprising:

a) a promoter derived from the polyhedrin promoter of a baculovirus by deletion of all or part of the region of said promoter extending from positions -1 to -12 relative to the polyhedrin translation initiation site;

b) a sequence encoding a receptor with seven transmembrane domains, placed under the transcriptional control of said promoter.

2. The expression cassette as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it also comprises, upstream of the sequence b), a sequence encoding a signal peptide.

3. The expression cassette as claimed in either one of claims 1 and 2, characterized in that said receptor with seven transmembrane domains is an olfactory receptor.

4. A method for expressing a receptor with seven transmembrane domains in an insect cell, characterized in that said insect cell is infected with a recombinant baculovirus comprising an expression cassette as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3.

5. The method as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that a G protein is also expressed in the same insect cell.

6. The method as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that said G protein is expressed under the control of the promoter of the P10 gene of a baculovirus.

7. The method as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that use is made of a double-recombinant baculovirus comprising:

- an expression cassette as claimed in any one of

claims 1 to 3; and

- a sequence encoding a G protein placed under the transcriptional control of the promoter of the P10 gene of said baculovirus.

8. A recombinant baculovirus comprising an expression cassette as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3.

9. The recombinant baculovirus as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that said expression cassette is inserted as a replacement for the polyhedrin promoter and gene of said baculovirus.

10. The recombinant baculovirus as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that said baculovirus also comprises a sequence encoding a G protein placed under the transcriptional control of the promoter of the P10 gene.

11. An insect cell infected with a recombinant baculovirus as claimed in any one of claims 8 to 10.

12. The use of an insect cell as claimed in claim 11, for determining the functionality of a putative receptor with seven transmembrane domains.

13. The use of an insect cell as claimed in claim 11, for identifying the ligand(s) for an orphelin receptor with seven transmembrane domains.

14. The use of an insect cell as claimed in claim 11, for identifying (a) receptor(s) with seven transmembrane domains capable of binding to a ligand of interest.

15. The use as claimed in any one of claims 12 to 14, characterized in that said receptor with seven transmembrane domains is an olfactory receptor.